



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 10

1200 Sixth Avenue, Suite 900
Seattle, Washington 98101-3140

JUN 13 2016

**OFFICE OF
COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT**

Reply to: OCE-101

CERTIFIED MAIL-RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

NOTICE OF VIOLATION

The Honorable Mark Jensen
Mayor of Petersburg
P.O. Box 329
Petersburg, Alaska 99833

Re: City & Borough of Petersburg Wastewater Treatment Plant
NPDES Permit Number AK-002145-8

Dear Mayor Jensen:

On November 20, 2001, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit to the City of Petersburg, Alaska ("City") wastewater treatment facility ("Facility"), NPDES Permit Number AK-002145-8 ("Permit"). The Permit became effective on December 24, 2001 and expired on December 16, 2006. Subsequently, EPA administratively extended the Permit. The purpose of this letter is to notify you of violations EPA discovered upon review of administrative files including the Discharge Monitoring Reports (DMRs) submitted by the City, and in response to the inspection of the Facility conducted by EPA on June 29, 2015. The purpose of this inspection was to determine the City's compliance with the requirements of the Clean Water Act (CWA) and the NPDES Permit. I would like to express my appreciation for your staff's time and cooperation during the inspection. At the time of the inspection, the inspector did not find any areas of concern.

REVIEW OF ADMINISTRATIVE FILES

Part II.C of the Permit states, in part, "Monitoring results shall be summarized each month on the Discharge Monitoring Report (DMR) form. The reports shall be submitted monthly and are to be postmarked by the 10th day of the following month."

Upon review of DMRs from May 2011 through May 2016, EPA found that the Facility submitted the December 2012 DMR late. EPA did not receive the December 2012 DMR, due by January 10, 2013, until May 29, 2013. This is a violation of Part II.C of the Permit.

JUNE 2015 INSPECTION

VIOLATION

Part II.E.1 of the Permit states, "Records of monitoring information shall include: The date, exact place, and time of sampling or measurements

At the time of the inspection, the inspector noted that the Facility was not annotating sample times along with other analytical and monitoring data on the laboratory bench sheets. The inspector reported that the issue goes back to 2013. Although the Facility addressed and corrected this issue since the inspection, failure to record the time on the bench sheets is still a violation of Part II.E.1 of the Permit.

AREA OF CONCERN

Part II.F of the Permit states, in part, "The permittee shall retain records of all monitoring information, including all calibration and maintenance records and all original strip chart recordings for continuous monitoring instrumentation, copies of all reports required by this permit, and records of all data used to complete the application for this permit, for a period of at least three years from the date of the sample, measurement, report, or application."

At the time of the inspection, the Inspector noted that the Facility did not have calibration sheets for the dissolved oxygen (DO) and pH analyzer. A Facility representative informed the inspector that calibration is part of the test and the test is proof of calibration. This, however, is insufficient to satisfy the conditions of the Permit. If the DO and pH analyzer does not provide a calibration printout, the Facility is required to keep a logbook that shows date and time of calibration and the person performing the procedure.

On December 21, 2015, the NPDES Electronic Reporting Rule became effective. Permittees with a DMR requirement will have one year from this date to submit DMRs through NetDMR. Additional information is enclosed (Enclosure A).

Although our goal is to ensure NPDES facilities comply fully with their permits, the ultimate responsibility rests with the permittee. As such, I want to strongly encourage you to continue your efforts to maintain full knowledge of the Permit requirements, and other appropriate statutes, and to respond appropriately to ensure compliance. Notwithstanding your response to this letter, EPA retains all rights to pursue enforcement actions to address these and any other violations.

I have enclosed a copy of the inspection report (Enclosure B). If you have any questions concerning this matter, please call Raymond Andrews of my staff at (206) 553-4252.

Sincerely,



Edward J. Kowalski
Director

Enclosures

cc: Mr. Mike Solter
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